

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 01832 250549Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 IO-13 DEAE-00 SNM-02 JUSE-00 /072 W

-----250554Z 032306 /20

R 250605Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8540

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 1832

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY BANGKOK, DATED JAN 25
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE:

CHIANG MAI 023

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, PH, BM

SUBJECT: BURMESE ARMY/SUA CLASH INSIDE THAI TERRITORY

REF: CHIANG MAI 18, CHIANG MAI 19

1. A LOCAL BPP OFFICER HAS INFORMED US THAT TWELVE BURMESE WERE KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED IN THE SUA AMBUSH INSIDE THAILAND. AFTER THE AMBUSH THE BURMESE ARMY USED TWO U.S. SUPPLIED HELICOPTERS TO FLY INTO THAI TERRITORY AND EVACUATED THE DEAD AND WOUNDED TO TACHILEK, BURMA. A BPP GENERAL OFFICER MET PERSONALLY WITH SUA LEADER, CHANG CHI FU, AND GOT HIS AGREEMENT TO BREAK OFF OPERATIONS INSIDE THAILAND. THE BPP SOURCE IS CONVINCED HAD THE BPP NOT MADE SUCH AN AGREEMENT, THE BURMESE ARMY COMPANIES WOULD HAVE SUFFERED CONSIDERABLY GREATER CASUALTIES. THE SAME OFFICER HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE USE OF U.S. SUPPLIED HELICOPTERS IN VIOLATION OF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 01832 250549Z

THAI AIR SPACE IN WHAT HE SUSPECTS WAS AN ANTI-BURMESE DIS-
SIDENT RATHER THAN AN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATION.

2. THE BPP REGION III DEPUTY COMMANDER, COL. PIMON CHARAK,
PASSED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO A RETIRED CONSULATE FSL.

3. SHAN UNITED ARMY COMMANDER, CHANG CHI FU, HAD KNOWN

THE BURMESE WERE PLANNING SOME KIND OF OPERATION AGAINST HIS ORGANIZATION FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS. HE HAD SIX HUNDRED MEN GATHERED TO DEFEND HIS POSITION, SOME OF WHOM WERE USED TO AMBUSH THE TWO BURMESE COMPANIES INSIDE THAILAND. THE BURMESE LOST 12 KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED IN THE AMBUSH. TWO BURMESE HELICOPTERS WHICH HAD BEEN SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES, FLEW INTO THE SITE OF THE AMBUSH AND EVACUATED THE DEAD AND WOUNDED OUT OF THAILAND TO TACHILEK.

4. BPP GENERAL PRANET, ALONG WITH COL. PIMON, PERSONALLY WENT TO CHANG CHI FU'S HEADQUARTERS AT BAN HIN TAEK IN CHIANG RAI PROVINCE AND NEGOTIATED WITH CHANG TO HALT OPERATIONS IN THAI TERRITORY. CHANG AGREED AND ORDERED HIS MEN TO WITHDRAW FROM THEIR POSITIONS BESIDE THE TRAIL ALONG WHICH THE BURMESE SOLDIERS HAD TO WITHDRAW BACK TO BURMA. PIMON IS CONVINCED THAT IT IS FORTUNATE FOR THE BURMESE ARMY THAT THE BPP WAS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SUA AS HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE A DEAL, THE BURMESE COMPANIES WOULD HAVE SUFFERED CONSIDERABLY GREATER LOSSES.

5. PIMON CLAIMS THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF UNHAPPINESS WITHIN THE BPP ABOUT THE BURMESE USE OF U.S. SUPPLIED HELICOPTERS INSIDE THAI TERRITORY. HE SAYS SERIOUS QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THESE HELICOPTERS ARE IN FACT BEING USED FOR NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION OR RATHER MORE IN THE SUPPRESSION OF BURMESE MINORITY GROUPS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 01832 250549Z

6. COMMENT. AS THERE MAY INDEED BE SOME SUSPICION WITHIN THE BPP THAT THIS OPERATION WAS MOTIVATED SOLELY BY A BURMESE DESIRE TO CRUSH A DISSIDENT GROUP, WE HOPE THERE IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE GIVING FIGURES ON WHATEVER QUANTITIES OF HEROIN OR OTHER OPIATES WERE SEIZED ON THE BURMESE SIDE OF THE BORDER. SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE MOST USEFUL HERE IN CONTACTS WITH THE BPP AND OTHER THAI OFFICIALS IN COUNTERING THEIR SUSPICION ABOUT BURMESE MOTIVES. SIGNED TANNER. UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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